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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,347	08/24/2001	Amber D. Huffman	42390.P11759	3611

7590 04/21/2005
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EXAMINER

EMDADI, KAMRAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2667

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/939,347	Applicant(s) HUFFMAN, AMBER D.	
	Examiner Kamran Emdadi	Art Unit 2667	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.**
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

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The Summary of the Invention is missing from the specification. 37 CFR 1.73 recites that a Summary of the Invention should be included in the specification as filed. Below is a brief description of what the contents of a Summary of the Invention may include.

Brief Summary of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(d). A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The claimed feature recited in claim 12 “digital to audio converter” is not supported in the specification. Examiner believes the Applicant instead intended to have written “digital to analog converter.” For reasons related to the

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examination of claims 12-14, the Examiner will assume that audio was instead intended to be analog.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3 and 5-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Diepstraten et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0026198).

Regarding claims 1, 6 and 15, Diepstraten teaches a wireless LAN including a MAC device 301 having control means 302, processing means 303 and transmitting and receiving means 304 (see Abstract and figure 3).

Diepstraten further teaches the MAC controller 302 interfacing with the DSP processing means 303, data is exchanged between the DSP 303 and the MAC controller 302 including: data to transmit, data received, a clock signal and a control signal (see [0052]). The DSP 303 distinguishes between noise and QPSK signals (see [0063]). For data symbols being transmitted, the DSP 303 handles the necessary signal detection (see Abstract).

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Regarding claims 2-3 and 16-17, Diepstraten teaches a threshold level used for detecting a transmitted signal (see [0043]).

Regarding claim 5, Diepstraten teaches a baseband processor 303 (see [0052]).

Regarding claim 7, Diepstraten teaches MAC controller 302 coupled to DSP 303, which monitors the signal after the data symbols have been transmitted (see Abstract).

Regarding claim 8, Diepstraten teaches the DSP 303 performs baseband, coding and modulation (see [0052]).

Regarding claim 9, Diepstraten teaches an analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog processing component to handle signals received via the analog antenna 31 and translated for MAC controller 302 (see figure 3).

Regarding claim 10, Diepstraten teaches a transceiver and antenna 31, 131 and 304 (see figure 3).

Regarding claim 11, Diepstraten teaches a bus between memory 305 and controller 302 for I/O signaling, and a CPU processor 21 (see figure 3).

Regarding claim 12, Diepstraten teaches all of the features of claim 12 as described in the above noted rejections to claims 1, 5 and 9.

Regarding claims 13-14, Diepstraten teaches all of the features of claims 13-14 as described in the above noted rejections to claims 8 and 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diepstraten in view of Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,853).

Diepstraten discloses all of the above features of a wireless MAC device, however, is silent regarding setting a timer when the RSSI level falls below a threshold. Wang discloses a wireless network access scheme including MAC devices and setting a timer when an RSSI value falls below a threshold, specifically, a fixed threshold (FT) is compared to a RSSI level and if the RSSI level falls below FT then the channel state machine enters a channel_clear state (see column 10, lines 23-35) otherwise referred to as a "clear" timer (see column 10, lines 43-46).

Motivation to combine these two references is evident in the Background portions of their respective specifications. For instance, Diepstraten discloses the need for an improvement in the high probability of failures for messages transmitted in a network and the burden of hosting retransmissions of data messages. The solution is to provide a detection scheme to identify the data transmissions before a collision occurs (see [0015-0016]). Similarly, Wang

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discloses wasted network resources used for locating mobile units in a wireless network. The solution in Wang is to provide improved synchronization to avoid burdensome retransmissions of data messages (see column 3, lines 5-10).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined these two references and arrive at the features recited in claims 4 and 18.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kamran Emdadi whose telephone number is 571-272-6047. The examiner can normally be reached M-F between the hours of 7am-5pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kamran Emdadi

April 6, 2005



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800 4/8/05